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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending October 30, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Fair Week for Field Work: Another week of damp weather has come and gone. Harvesting is still going on for corn, soybeans, apples, and grapes. Alfalfa hay's fourth cutting is about to come to an end but some farmers are reporting possibly a fifth cutting. Cold weather is slowly moving in as most of the temperatures during the week barely reached 60. Some reports of snowfall were made in certain areas of the state as well. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples and grapes, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, harvesting soybeans, and finishing alfalfa's fourth cutting.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 30, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	5	74	21

Crops: Fall plowing in now at 73 percent complete, behind last year's pace as well as the five year average. The entire soybean crop is now dropping leaves. Fifty-five percent of the crop is now harvested, which is ahead of the previous year's pace. Soybean conditions dropped from last week as 56 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. The corn for grain is now 75 percent harvested, well ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average. The barley crop is completely planted, and 94 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Winter wheat is now at 85 percent planted as 64 percent of the crop has already emerged. The 4th cutting of alfalfa pushes forward at 94 percent completion. The quality of hay made this week rose from last week's and was rated with the following conditions: 17 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 22 percent excellent.

Eighty-five percent of the apple crop is now harvested. The grape harvest is coming along nicely as 90 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Livestock: The damp weather is steadily improving conditions as weeks go by. A significant amount of sunlight is still needed. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 11 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

U.S. as of October 23, 2005: Highlights: Prior to the October 24 passage of Hurricane Wilma across southern Florida, mild, relatively tranquil weather prevailed across the United States. Significant precipitation was focused from the Southwest to the Northeast along the path of a compact disturbance. Near- to below temperatures were confined to southern California and the Great Lakes region. Late-week rain maintained soggy conditions and caused some renewed flooding in the Northeast. Heavy rain lingered early in the week across northern New England. Rain continued to break October records in the Northeast, where month-to-date totals climbed to 12.07 inches in Allentown, PA (previously, 7.64 inches in 1943) and 7.85 inches in Philadelphia, PA (previously, 6.66 inches in 1902).

Above-normal temperatures across most of the Nation were favorable for summer crop maturation and winter wheat emergence. Only in the Great Lakes region and southern California did temperatures average below normal. Moderate rainfall across the Ohio Valley, southern Corn Belt, and central Great Plains hampered fieldwork somewhat. Additional rainfall in the Northeast maintained excessive soil moisture in the region. Corn: Growers had harvested 65 percent of their acreage, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Harvest advanced to 87 percent complete, compared with 78 percent last year and 79 percent for the 5-year average. Ohio Valley growers were most active. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, respectively. Winter Wheat: Eighty-six percent of the crop had been sown, 2 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal in the Pacific Northwest but generally ahead of normal elsewhere. Meanwhile, acreage emerged reached 65 percent, 1 point behind last year but 2 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 30, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 30, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	52	37	45	-6	1.33	4	22.02	-4.28	72	3,133	505	5,034
Franklin	52	31	41	-7	1.58	6	26.08	-1.75	113	2,764	364	4,677
Meadville	49	34	40	-7	0.94	6	25.11	-3.10	84	2,867	671	4,771
Mercer	52	31	41	-6	1.61	6	26.92	0.48	107	2,866	490	4,759
Springboro	51	29	40	-9	1.66	6	28.62	3.29	92	2,620	48	4,468
Warren	52	32	40	-7	1.80	5	25.37	-2.86	84	2,722	407	4,608
North Central												
Bradford Region	47	22	35	-9	1.31	5	28.49	0.52	98	2,118	463	3,903
Emporium	54	28	40	-5	1.42	4	21.75	-5.82	89	2,726	841	4,619
Kane	50	23	36	-8	1.30	4	24.08	-4.58	77	2,029	415	3,808
Laporte	46	26	35	-11	1.64	2	30.02	4.08	93	2,416	48	4,241
Lock Haven	54	33	42	-6	1.60	3	18.70	-6.72	75	3,127	606	5,093
Port Allegany	50	26	37	-8	1.51	4	23.51	-3.19	85	2,317	483	4,117
Renovo	54	32	41	-7	1.85	5	17.52	-7.90	75	3,070	549	5,027
Ridgway	52	26	38	-7	1.20	4	24.09	-3.48	83	2,366	481	4,215
Stevenson Dam	57	33	42	-3	0.87	3	20.51	-7.06	82	2,905	1,020	4,847
Towanda	52	27	39	-8	2.02	4	23.31	1.74	77	2,857	468	4,764
Wellsboro	48	23	37	-8	1.45	2	27.24	5.52	75	2,253	476	4,050
Williamsport	53	29	43	-6	1.01	2	27.26	1.91	63	3,324	543	5,309
Northeast												
Hawley	47	28	37	-9	1.46	3	27.16	2.71	77	2,539	505	4,398
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	50	30	40	-9	1.41	2	20.23	-3.49	73	3,390	754	5,353
Susquehanna	48	29	39	-6	1.79	4	28.90	2.54	89	2,710	789	4,590
West Central												
Butler	54	28	41	-6	1.60	6	24.26	-1.85	85	2,913	422	4,872
New Castle	58	29	44	-4	1.65	4	27.04	3.01	79	3,198	703	5,180
Slippery Rock	58	31	43	-3	1.81	6	25.92	0.24	85	2,976	742	4,964
Central												
Altoona/Blair	54	34	42	-7	0.65	3	13.43	-9.66	59	2,880	227	4,828
DuBois	50	31	39	-8	1.38	5	22.99	-3.28	108	2,675	402	4,582
Lewistown	58	37	45	-5	1.20	2	22.38	-2.34	68	3,302	387	5,316
Middletown	58	36	46	-6	0.93	2	23.10	-1.49	62	3,890	583	5,958
Prince Gallitzi	50	30	39	-8	1.72	4	21.10	-8.36	81	2,490	365	4,365
Selinsgrove	55	32	43	-6	1.30	3	24.83	-0.92	71	3,185	476	5,163
State College	52	33	42	-6	1.65	4	18.34	-4.97	81	3,094	493	5,074
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	56	30	44	-7	1.08	2	32.35	5.70	72	3,516	501	5,540
Lehighton	53	30	42	-8	1.19	2	28.72	2.00	74	3,120	216	5,108
Matamoras	49	30	40	-8	1.48	2	37.56	10.65	83	2,769	165	4,683
Tobyhanna	52	31	41	-3	1.42	2	34.13	5.12	103	3,076	1,331	5,043
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	56	32	43	-6	2.41	6	20.22	-4.11	86	3,512	835	5,533
Derry	53	33	41	-7	2.09	3	23.83	-1.39	70	3,006	484	4,983
Myersdale	54	29	38	-10	2.40	5	21.22	-6.42	76	2,335	-152	4,197
Mount Pleasant	55	29	41	-6	2.75	5	26.61	-2.24	89	2,890	641	4,862
Pittsburgh Intl	53	34	42	-7	1.83	3	23.43	0.77	76	3,332	529	5,327
Rector	54	31	40	-7	2.01	5	24.78	-4.07	105	2,916	667	4,879
Waynesburg	54	26	39	-8	2.14	3	21.24	-3.40	75	3,046	463	5,019
South Central												
Biglerville	60	33	44	-7	1.17	3	28.56	5.03	74	3,429	196	5,457
Everett	58	32	41	-7	1.40	5	16.86	-5.84	68	2,408	-239	4,308
Hanover	61	33	45	-7	1.27	4	28.57	5.04	67	3,406	173	5,432
Shippensburg	58	33	44	-7	1.55	3	26.88	4.04	79	3,459	236	5,477
South Mountain	55	30	41	-8	1.90	4	27.64	4.55	70	2,896	253	4,898
York	60	30	44	-8	1.13	3	22.53	-2.35	60	3,454	222	5,474
Southeast												
Green Lane	57	33	44	-6	1.12	2	28.42	2.60	69	3,489	614	5,523
Hamburg	56	33	44	-4	1.06	2	26.99	-3.06	68	3,489	890	5,516
Hopewell	57	33	44	-8	1.24	2	31.65	4.61	91	3,505	88	5,540
Lancaster	57	34	45	-6	0.87	3	28.29	2.15	67	3,605	556	5,640
Neshaminy Falls	58	31	44	-7	1.69	2	32.78	3.07	62	3,329	323	5,335
New Holland	60	35	45	-5	1.36	3	31.62	5.48	66	3,681	632	5,723
Philadelphia	62	37	48	-6	0.83	2	25.76	0.62	64	4,145	602	6,241
Philadelphia NE	59	35	47	-6	1.31	2	29.32	4.18	65	4,018	475	6,102
Reading	58	34	45	-5	1.04	3	25.52	-2.20	68	3,769	785	5,813
Valley Forge Na	58	28	43	-9	1.18	3	26.82	-0.22	53	3,352	-65	5,350
Willow Grove	55	32	45	-6	0.75	2	26.39	-3.32	50	3,685	679	5,739

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a wet and cool dreary week of weather. Not much sunshine or warm temperatures during this period. Field work was very limited due to rainfall received last weekend and middle of last week. This past weekend was cool on Saturday and windy which helped to dry the fields some but could have caused some corn and soybeans stalks to go down making harvest even more interesting. Apples are still being harvested with loading areas for trucks quite a mess with mud. Sunday we had a nice fall sunny day with daytime temps around 61 degrees. Sunday night into today there was a pretty good frost. Probably the heaviest we had to date. Producers will be back in the fields this week harvesting corn, soybeans and apples with the forecast of sun and temps around 60-68 degrees during the day.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Another inch of rain this week has helped the fall seeding. Apple harvest is delayed for several days due to the inclement weather. Too wet for soybeans at this time, but appears that warm dry windy weather is due this coming week to help finish the fall harvest. The wet weather and soft fields has made this a challenging week to find suitable areas to haul manure.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Earl J Long - This past week a good portion of rain was received, but not enough to stop field work. Wheat is off to a good start this year. Yields for corn continue to be above normal.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Dairy feed quality may be down. Was a tough year to harvest corn silage and hay at optimal moisture levels. Corn yields are better than expected but reduced.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - The weather broke towards the end of the week and harvesting of crops resumed. Pastures also showed some signs of regrowth. Farmers are installing contour strips and planting cover crops hoping we get the weather for them to do some good.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Wet conditions continue to hamper harvest activities. Much of the no-till ground will support traffic, but there will need to be some touch up work next spring. Only corn was dry enough to harvest this week, but beans are the target for the upcoming week. Still there are those who would like to plant wheat, but the ground is slow to dry this time of the year.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Less than one month ago, we were hoping for rain; now we are hoping for no more for a period of time, at least until the corn and soybeans have been harvested. The rainfall amounts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday amounted to over one inch. That amount along with the rains recently has made the low lying fields in poorly drained areas saturated. A small amount of corn was harvested this week along with the mowing of fourth cutting alfalfa by the end of the week. The quality of the corn that has been harvested is of good quality and the stand ability is very good.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 30, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	73	87	74
Corn, harvested	75	62	57
Barley, emerged	94	93	85
Wheat, planted	85	87	87
Wheat, emerged	64	56	66
Soybeans, harvested	55	36	47
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	94	88	87
Apples, harvested	85	100	94
Grapes, harvested	90	100	95

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 30, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	4	14	62	19
Soybeans	4	12	28	48	8
Quality of hay made	17	12	13	36	22
Pasture	11	20	43	23	3

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